

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1-3 and 7-8 are amended

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. It is submitted that the claims as amended obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7-8 under 35 USC 103 over Ida (US Pat. 5,444,427) in view of JP 5-109542 and FR 2771842 (FR '842). The Office Action also rejects claims 4-6 under 35 USC 103 over Ida '427 and further in view of Ida (US Pat. 5,109,209). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action admits that Ida does not disclose the lid body having outlet holes, but asserts that FR '842 discloses the use of a lid having vent holes 60, and that it would have been obvious to use the venting design of FR '842 for the lid of Ida, for the purpose of venting air during encapsulation.

However, in the present invention, the basket body is filled with resin through the outlet holes after the lid body is used to close the open end of the basket body. The resin is filled until just below the lid body. The lid body is thus not pulled and deformed by the curing resin. The protrusively formed partitions also prevent deformation of the lid body. Further, as recited in claim 1, at least one partition, which is located between the reactor bodies and whose leading end extends from an inner face of at least one of the basket body and the lid body and contacts on an inner face of the other. As may be seen with reference to Figs. of the application, the partitions (or protrusions) 12d contact the inner surface of the lid body (Figs. 1A, 1B, 2) and the basket body (Figs. 3A, 3B, 4). This allows prevention of deformation of the lid body or basket body.

In contrast, in the cited references, the basket body is filled with resin before the lid covers the opening, but is not filled with resin until just below the lid. Thus, there is no need for partitions to prevent deformation of the lid. In Ida '427 and Ida '209, the protruding portions do not contact on an

PATENT

Serial No: 10/660,603

Docket No: 10517-187

inner surface of the lid body and go through the lid body. It is not possible to prevent the lid body or basket body from being deformed.

Further, as may be seen from the attached English language abstract of FR '842, elements 60 are not venting holes, but are instead notches to interact with ribs 60:

“The casing has vertical ribs (48) to assist positioning of the subassembly and cover plate, the latter having notches (60) in its edges to interact with the ribs.”

Thus, even if combined, the combination of references would not include the outlet holes in the lid body, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, would not have been obvious over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance in due course is solicited. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16, §1.17, or §1.136 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this matter, he is invited to contact

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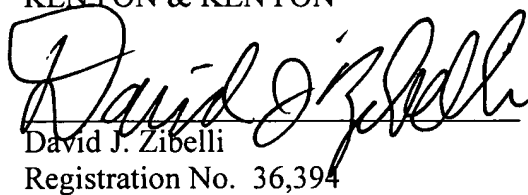
Serial No: 10/660,603

Docket No: 10517-187

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Respectfully submitted,

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